



**PALM BEACH COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION  
REENTRY TASK FORCE MEETING**

Palm Beach County Governmental Center

301 N. Olive Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor

West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 - 12:00 P.M.

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**

**A. Welcome and opening comments**

Chair Sylvia Moffett called the meeting to order and welcome attendees to the first meeting of 2017. A moment of silence was observed for Michelle Dryer, member of the Task Force and Chair of the Employment Subcommittee. A scholarship fund will be established in honor of Ms. Dryer to help returning justice involved individuals to pursue educational courses. Special welcome was extended to Mr. Newbold who was recently release from Sago Palm.

**B. Introduction of members and guests**

Participants introduced themselves in lieu of a roll call. A total of 55 persons were in attendance.

**C. Approval and/or additions to the Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved.

**D. Approval and/or corrections to the 1/25/2017 minutes of the Reentry Task Force**

The Minutes were unanimously approved.

**E. Old Business**

a) **Adult Court Cost**

Allowing case managers access to the Clerk's system was discussed as a more feasible option to obtaining and provide court cost for adult than creating a sheet. The Public Defender's Office can also assist with information access. It was noted that individuals on probation are made aware of their court cost by probation officers.

b) **County Commissioner and State Attorney Representatives**

The Criminal Justice Commission is in discussion with the State Attorney for a replacement. There is no requirement for a County Commissioner to have a seat on the Reentry Task Force. Kristina Henson to reach out to commissioners for interest in serving as a point person instead of membership on the Task Force, this will alleviate any Sunshine Law issues.

**F. New Business**

a) **Sago Palm Reentry Center**

Assistant Warden Everett McPherson retired and a new warden will be announced in February or March. Okeechobee Correctional Institute is now the parent facility for Sago Palm. The change from Martin to Okeechobee Correctional Institute was noted as a good move.

- b) National Reentry Week 2017  
Palm Beach County will observe national reentry week from April 23-29, 2017. A committee will be established to plan this year's celebration.
- c) Peer Navigator  
South East Florida behavioral Health Network (SEFBHN) will be offering a 40-hour training program for peer support. This is to create a network of resources and advocates to help returning residents to transition into society. These individuals will be provided s supplemental income.
- d) Legislative Delegation, Funding, and Request for Services (RFS)  
Palm Beach County is now going through the budget process. The Legislative Delegation is seeking to again obtain the \$500,000 from the State to fund reentry. RFS applications for reentry marketing will be vetted through the Sustainability Subcommittee.

**G. Task Force Initiatives/Updates**

- a) RESTORE Data  
Final statistics from the Second Chance Act Grant that started in 2011 were reported. The goal was to reduce recidivism by 50% in five years. The goal was met showing a Baseline rate 11.5% that was reduced to 3.1%, 2%, and 1% for one year.
- b) Overview of Level of Service Inventory-revised (LSI-r)  
An overview of the LSI-r, the assessment tool used in adult reentry to assess individuals risk and needs. All case managers are trained and are using the tool as designated. The tools indicate the static and dynamic risks, and look at different areas and how they relate to recidivism, protective factors, and criminogenic needs. All Reentry staff are trained to administer the tool.
- c) National Institute of Corrections (NIC) Training  
As part of the IRES pilot project the NIC provided a three-day training in employment retention principles and practices to over thirty reentry staff. Motivational Interviewing was one area of focus, as well as identifying an employment assessment tool.
- d) Staff Update/Brevard County  
Interviews are scheduled to fill the position of Reentry Program Coordinator for youth. Palm Beach County was invited to present at Brevard County's fourth Reentry Conference on February 15th, to learn more about PBC's community reentry model. Also, Cook County, Illinois reentry officials visited in December 2016 to learn about PBC's reentry program.
- e) Government Efficiency Task Force Report  
Florida Tax Watch published a report that will affect the way reentry is done in the county. The following six recommendations were highlighted
  - Establishment of an Inter-Branch Bipartisan Criminal Justice Task Force

- Supervised release of non-violent elderly inmates
- Enhanced sentencing tools
- Expand Alternative forensic mental health programs
- Increase access to work release programs
- Expand electronic monitoring for low-risk non-violent offenders

## **H) Subcommittee Reports**

### a) Data and Evaluation

Preliminary findings of The Urban Institute and RTI evaluation on the county's reentry program was provided. The complete report is due June 2017. Also the RENEW system continues to be upgraded to accommodate ongoing-needs.

### b) Employment, Training and Education Subcommittee

The Council of State Governments (CSG) continues to provide technical assistance to the county as part of the IRES pilot project. Representatives facilitated the NIC training in January. The IRES project seeks to connect individuals to programs based on individual risks and needs. Reentry services will be streamlined to ensure consistency across agency.

### c) Housing Subcommittee

The Housing Subcommittee has not met since September 2016, however, the county has drafted a Memorandum of Understanding with local housing authorities to allow returning justice involved individuals to be put on housing lease after completing a reentry program. Case managers will be the liaison to Housing Authorities as services will be continued to be provided based on clients needs.

### d) Sex Offender Subcommittee

A list of recommended areas for focus was submitted by Vice Chair Gail Colletta. Participants were asked to review and provide feedback.

### f) Sustainability Subcommittee

The Subcommittee continues to look at funding for reentry sustainability. National Reentry Week was explored at the last meeting as well as a reentry day in Tallahassee. The Subcommittee will review applications for RFS for reentry marketing at the February 1st meeting. A sealing and expungement event was mentioned to take place soon.

### g) Youth Reentry Subcommittee

The University of Miami presented the BTAF evaluation at the December 2016 meeting. The BTAF program was designed to target high risk youth that are transitioning to PBC from commitment, with the goals of reducing recidivism by 50% over 5 years and to ensuring placements of 70% of juveniles served in school or employment. Overall, the evaluation indicated that BTAF youth demonstrated successful completions.

The subcommittee will facilitate two meetings with reentry partners to explore how services are coordinated for youth and if they are able to earn credit for participation. The second meeting is to learn more about a partnership with Riviera Beach Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) and the School District to provide alternative education and vocational training through North Tech.

**H. Additional member and guest comments**

- a) The Department of Corrections distributed documented statistics showing the impact of reentry services in PBC
- b) Mention was made the Re-Entry Center event held in Riviera Beach
- c) The following announcements were made:
  - Sealing and Expunging event – Thursday, February 2, 2017
  - Restorative Justice event – Thursday, January 26, 2017 at Gaines Park.
  - Choice –to-Change up-coming events.

**I. Adjourn**

With no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.